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# FREE INDIA

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## Fumbling And Floundering

ONE hundred days after taking office, and half-way through the first Budget session, the Janata Government has so far been unable to present a cohesive picture and gives the appearance of floundering.

At the party level it is no longer concealed or concealable that the Janata is not a party but still a *morcha* or a combination or coalition of five or six constituents, of whom the BLD and the Jana Sangh are numerically stronger and acting with cohesion and direction. Two jokes in the Parliament lobbies illustrate this best : A new Member introduced himself too Piloo Mody, the ex-MP, and asked Piloo whether he was a Member and to which party he belonged. Quipped the irrepressible Piloo : "I am a member of a party which, at the moment, seems to have only four or five members." The other is about a party worker who went too see a Minister and gave his name on a chit. The Minister's PA asked him to which party he belonged, and the worker replied "Janata". But the PA sneered and said he had to know whether he was a BLD, Jana Sangh or what else.

### BRIGHT FEATURE

On the Government side, the one bright feature was that Brij Lal Verma was shifted from Industry to Communications and George Fernandes was given the Industry portfolio. Verma, who came to Janata from the Congress ( 967) *via* SVD in Madhya Pradesh and later Jana Sangh, has certainly established a record of sorts. In India's thirty years of independence, Brij Lal Verma has the credit, of establishing within three months, a consensus about his fairly high level of incompetence both as an administrator and a parliamentarian. And like another Industry Minister of long ago, every time Verma opened his mouth he put this foot right into it.

Verma, it should be noted was a last-miniute choice. Nanaji Deshmukh who was named, excused himself at the last moment and pushed in Brij Lal Verma. Verma's loud thinkings about Janata's Industrial Policy, the moves to help the multinationals and the big monopoly groups, in the shape of the paper prepared by one of the Jana Sangh functionaries, all became embarassing in the extreme.

Whether Party President Chandra Sekhar's statement from hospital about Janata's Industrial Policy was the salvo that finished Verma's tenture in the Industry Ministry or merely signal of an agreed assertion of authority by Prime Minister Morarji Desai is perhaps not of great importance. The question however still remains how or why it is thought that Communications is so tertiary to be put in charge of Verma. The only plausible reason is the crack in the lobbies : Verma has been shifted to Communications as it is one of the Ministries whose demands will not be discussed but will be guillotined ; and officials in any event run that Ministry on their own.

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

In Parliament itself, even as the Congress is struggling to find its feet in its role of an Opposition party, the members of Janata and its constituents are unable to realise their role as the ruling party. The lighter aspect of this came out when a leading member of the Janata recently tabled an adjournment motion, and when the party whip got to him, he realised his mistake and withdrew his motion with a hurried note, "I am sorry I forgot

(Contd. on page 8)

Mr. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy has been declared elected unanimously as the President of India. He will be installed in office on July 25th, ceremoniously. He is the Sixth President of the Indian Union.

## DISSIPATING GOODWILL

Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who has managed to accumulate a lot of goodwill, is now dissipating it in having to defend or apologise for his colleagues.

The irrepressible Raj Narain, with his provocatively obscurantist views on Hindi and English, forced Morarji Desai to come bounding into the house (from his room in Parliament House) and apologise on behalf of the Government and his colleague for Raj Narain's insulting remarks about those who use English. Fortunately, the Speaker later expunged Raj Narain's wisecracks, as he had to do again a couple of days later.

In the Rajya Sabha, Morarji Desai had to intervene to help out his colleague, Brij Lal Verma, the Minister of industry, who seemed totally out of depth in his ministerial responsibility and could not or would not do his homework. When Verma was substituted as Minister (in the Jana Sangh quota) in place of Nanaji Deshmukh, it would appear to be truly a case of Jana Sangh's gains being the Janata's loss.

To cap it all, Morarji had to rescue his Home Minister over the BLD symbol letter episode. When the story originally broke in the *Statesman*, Madhu Limye issued a denial : Charan Singh had not written to the Election Commission withdrawing the letter. When, a couple of days later, *Patriot* came out with the story of the disappearing letter and the surreptitious removal, another contradiction of sorts was issued which, again, did not stand scrutiny. Thereupon the then Election Commissioner himself threw his weight behind Charan Singh by denying anything had been done surreptitiously.

In the Rajya Sabha at last it was dragged out that Charan Singh had orally asked the Commission to return the letter which the latter did under a covering letter. District Court lawyer Charan Singh, and legal luminary Shanti Bhushan then insisted there was nothing wrong, that the letter was Charan Singh's or BLD's property, and could be taken back, and even courts gave back such letters : and the only precedent that Shanti Bhushan could cite was the Supreme Court's permission to Indira Gandhi to take back one of her affidavits and file a new one ! (No doubt now, if the *Times of India's* story that the first covering letter of Indira Gandhi to the President on June 25, 1975, about Emergency was taken back and substituted by another, is correct, Indira Gandhi can plead it was her property to do what she liked with it .)

And, again, Prime Minister had to get up and bring down the temperature and smooth out matters. What a waste of goodwill.

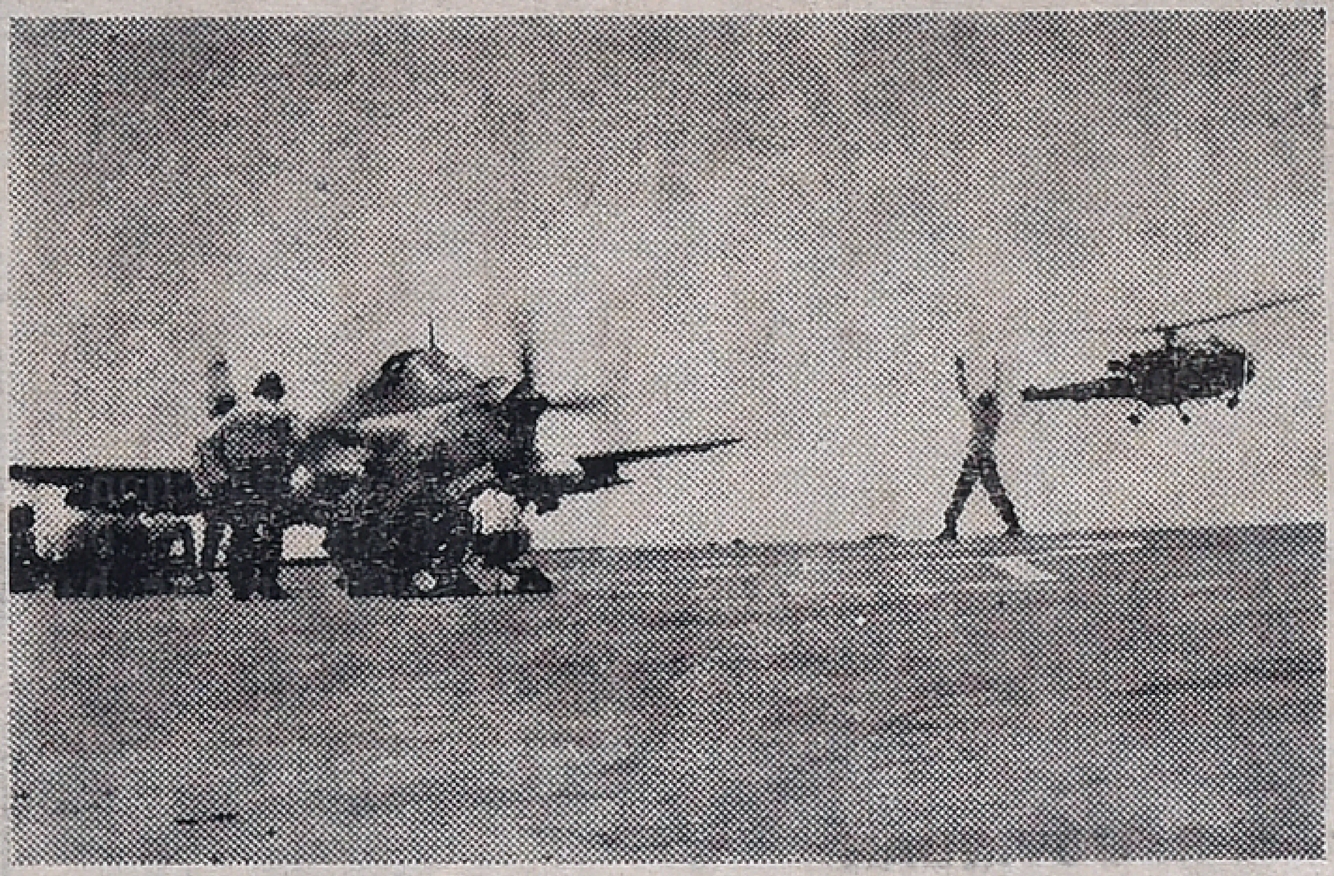
Perhaps Morarji Desai can tell his colleagues that in public life, it is not only Gandhian, but also a wise policy, always to tell the whole truth, and if an error had been committed, to acknowledge and apologise, rather than tell half-truths and half denials and defend the undefendable. And Shanti Bhushan can be asked to read the Watergate story and how the entire Nixon edifice ultimately collapsed — all because of an attempt to cover a silly burglary and a lie to cover it up.

*—Observer in Mainstream*

**THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA**

Experience has taught me that silence is a part of the spiritual discipline of a victory of truth.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER



An Alize aircraft being launched for an operational mission from board INS VIKRANT during the naval exercise.

Free India

SUNDAY July 24, 1977

# A DAY WITH INS VIKRANT

By D. ANJANEYULU

An aircraft-carrier is more than a floating township.

It is an essential and integral part of any modern navy, underlining its three-dimensional capability—i. e. under the water, on the surface of the water and above the water.

The aircraft-carrier helps to make the navy a force to reckon with in times of war and peace. It could be an effective deterrent against war and a reliable security for peace.

One could see the point of these statements, in all its vividness, from the recent exercises on INS Vikrant, the flagship of the Western Fleet, off the Madras Coast.

INS Vikrant, with her three air squadrons embarked, sailed out in fine weather in the morning, along with INS Kamotra, a patrol vessel of the PETYA class.

It will not be easy to imagine the size and strength of INS Vikrant without having a look at it. It has an over-all length of 700 feet and the width of its flight deck is 128 feet.

It is a light fleet carrier of 20,000 tons displacement and can carry about 30 aircraft, which include jet and turbo-prop aircraft and helicopters. These constitute the ship's main strike and defensive weapons. Besides aircraft, Vikrant has modern guns and anti-submarine detection equipment.

## ORIGIN AND HISTORY

To go back a little to her origin and history, this ship was acquired from Britain about two decades back, i. e. in 1957. She was commissioned on 4 March 1961 and, after an intensive period of work-up in the Mediterranean, arrived in Bombay on 3 November 1961.

As indicated at the outset, this ship is a sizable township floating on water, completely self-contained and self-sufficient, with a naval population of about 1500 people. She has the latest and the best domestic equipment fitted on board. More than the most ambitious of affluent housewives, she can boast three upto-date and electrically-operated kitchens, otherwise known as 'galleys', in naval parlance. They have been so adapted as to cater for all types of Indian cooking and the food is served to sailors on a cafeteria system.

An electric bakery and an electric laundry serve to complete her domestic equipment.

With so many gadgets run on electricity, it is not surprising that the ship has two large plants, which also supply airconditioning wherever necessary—the workships, the electronic epuipment compartments, the operations theatre and the sick-bay, which is the sailors' name for the ship's mini hospital. It has a bed strength of 25 and the theatre is well-equipped. There is a fine dental clinic as well on board the ship.

Then, what about communications within this township? There is an automatic exchange, which controls the 300 telephones on board.

## CONTROLLED CRASH

Aircraft take off from an air-field; but they are "catapulted" from the ship. The carrier is fitted with a steam catapult in the port forward end of the flight deck. The catapult launches the aircraft in a distance of 100 feet, at a speed of about 100 miles per hour. Aircraft ashore must needs use a two-mile runway for taking off.

Landing is perhaps more difficult than the launching where high-powered aircraft is concerned. On board a heaving and pitching deck within only 250 feet, it is always a delicate and hazardous occupation; every landing is virtually a crash, a controlled one though. It is done with the help of arrester wires laid across the flight deck. The aircraft about to land lowers the hook fitted in its belly, which catches one of the wires and comes to a stop within about 100 feet.

To make the carrier pilot's task a little easier, some innovations in carrier design and operation have been made. These include: a) the Angled Deck-which enables the aircraft that may fail to catch an arrester wire, while landing, to 'open up' and go round again; this will not be possible elsewhere; b) Landing aid-in the shape of a mirror landing device, fitted on board, which brings the pilot in on a correct 'glide-path' by day or by night, in calm seas or rough.

There is a hangar directly below the flight deck, which accomodates aircraft for servicing and maintenance and has a fully-equipped workshop. Two electri-

(Contd. on page 7)

## THIS CAMPAIGN MUST STOP

The Janata government has not yet settled down to attend to its task of outlining its economic policy.

The way the Union Ministers talk in different voices had made Mr. Jagjivan Ram to suggest that they meet among themselves to be familiar with each other's views on specific problems and also to reach a consensus on important issues.

It is significant that the officials are to be kept away from such meetings.

Unfortunately the Union Ministers are wasting their time in looking for little lapses of Indira Gandhi's administration. Even the floor of the parliament is misused to say something bad about Smt. Indira Gandhi and her son.

As Mr. Vayalar Ravi has pointed out the admission of short notice questions "has become a private affair between the government and the ruling party to malign the Congress."

Mr. Y. B. Chavan has complained that even "urgent and important matters" raised by his party have been rejected.

It is now clear that the Janata party is enjoying some respect from the opposition parties because of the patient and fair handling of affairs by the Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai.

Mr. Charan Singh, Home Minister, was unnecessarily rude when he attacked the former Prime Minister as a person who had never spoken the truth.

He has set up a commission which he expects to bring out "all the facts." Its terms of reference, he has claimed, were so wide that it would take a year or more to complete its labour. Perhaps it may take full five years and the Janata Party can be going on talking about little bits of information (mostly imaginary) that may be leaked out to the commission now and then.

Recently the Home Minister made one such "sensational disclosure" in the Lok Sabha that "arrangements had been made during the emergency to shoot down if necessary leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan in jail as had been done in Dacca." However he was honest enough to clarify it was not a proposal but "an idea and thinking (vichar)."

In these circumstances, the indifference of Congressmen to counter these allegations is really astounding.

They need not remain as helpless onlookers when their respected leaders are attacked. They must give an ultimatum to the ruling party to stop this nonsense. They must tell Mr. Charan Singh quite plainly that he need not "forgive the woman or the boy." But let him wait till the Shah commission gives its findings before he makes any further comments on the emergency. Otherwise, the Congress Party in the Parliament must refuse to function as a responsive and responsible opposition.

# Modernisation & Productivity of Agriculture

By Dr. G. RANGASWAMY,
Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

IT is well understood by our administrators and political leaders that unless we improve the productivity of our farm lands, our economy cannot grow. Since Independence, during the past 30 years we have made significant progress in food production, though this is not fully recognised by the people due to the fact that our demands for foodgrains have also increased very rapidly. During the past two decades, our food grains production had increased by about 150%. But for this increase our national economy would have been completely shattered. All the same, in a country, whose three-fourths of the population is directly dependent on farm income, the growth has to be many-folds more than the present level. Only then we will be able to meet the growing needs of the people and also generate the required resources to find gainful employments for the evergrowing manpower in the country.

## WIDE DISPARITIES

We have already brought under the plough 137 million hectares of land, which is about 45% of the total landspread of the country. Normally only about one-third of the landspread should be cultivated to maintain an ecological balance, but we are cultivating about 20% more land than what is optimum. Therefore there is no more land to be brought under cultivation. Of the cultivated area only about 28 million hectare is irrigated and this is about 21% of the total area. Another 30% of the area gets assured rainfall or more than 40 inches for raising one crop a year. Thus only half of the 137 million hectare of cultivated land is fit for cropping and the rest perhaps should not be under the plough. If this land is under farm forests to produce the raw material for forest-based industries, it would certainly be good for the nation. But, we are cultivating this 50% of land to annual crops, spending our economic and manpower resources for which we do not get much of remunerative returns. The 28 million of irrigated land contributes to nearly 60% of the total income, whereas the remaining 119 million hectares contribute the balance of 40% of the total income, depending on the vagaries of the mansoon. Agriculture as a whole, though the sole occupation of about three-fourths of the people, contributes only about 45% of the Gross National Income. The remaining 1/4th of the population contributes the balance of 55% of the national income. Thus, there exists wide disparities in tha income levels of people. If we were to minimise this gap, the average income from our farm lands should substantially increase.

To-day, in India, on an average, one hectare of land supports about 5 persons, two heads of cattle, two to three sheep, five to six poultry birds and other domesticated animals. In Tamil Nadu one hectare of cultivated land supports about 7 persons, 2½ heads of cattle, 5 sheep and 5 poultry birds. These numbers will increase steadily and by the end of the present century there will be, on an average, 9 to 10 persons and proportionately more number of cattle, poultry birds etc. Can the land stand the increasing pressure and become increasingly productive to meet the needs of the people? Can the increase be adequate enough to meet with the growing needs of the people and provide a better living standard than at present? Can we accomplish this, and if so, how this should be accomplished? Do we have the needed technology and can such a technology stand the test of time in the coming years?

> In India we have the world's third largest scientific manpower and we have adequate modern agricultural technology already developed through the efforts of the highly competent scientists. If we can more effectively transfer the available technology to the rural areas, over-coming the present economic, social, administrative and political obstacles we should be able to double our agricultural productivity which will generate resources for the country to move very fast towards a prosperous society, says Dr. G. Rangaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

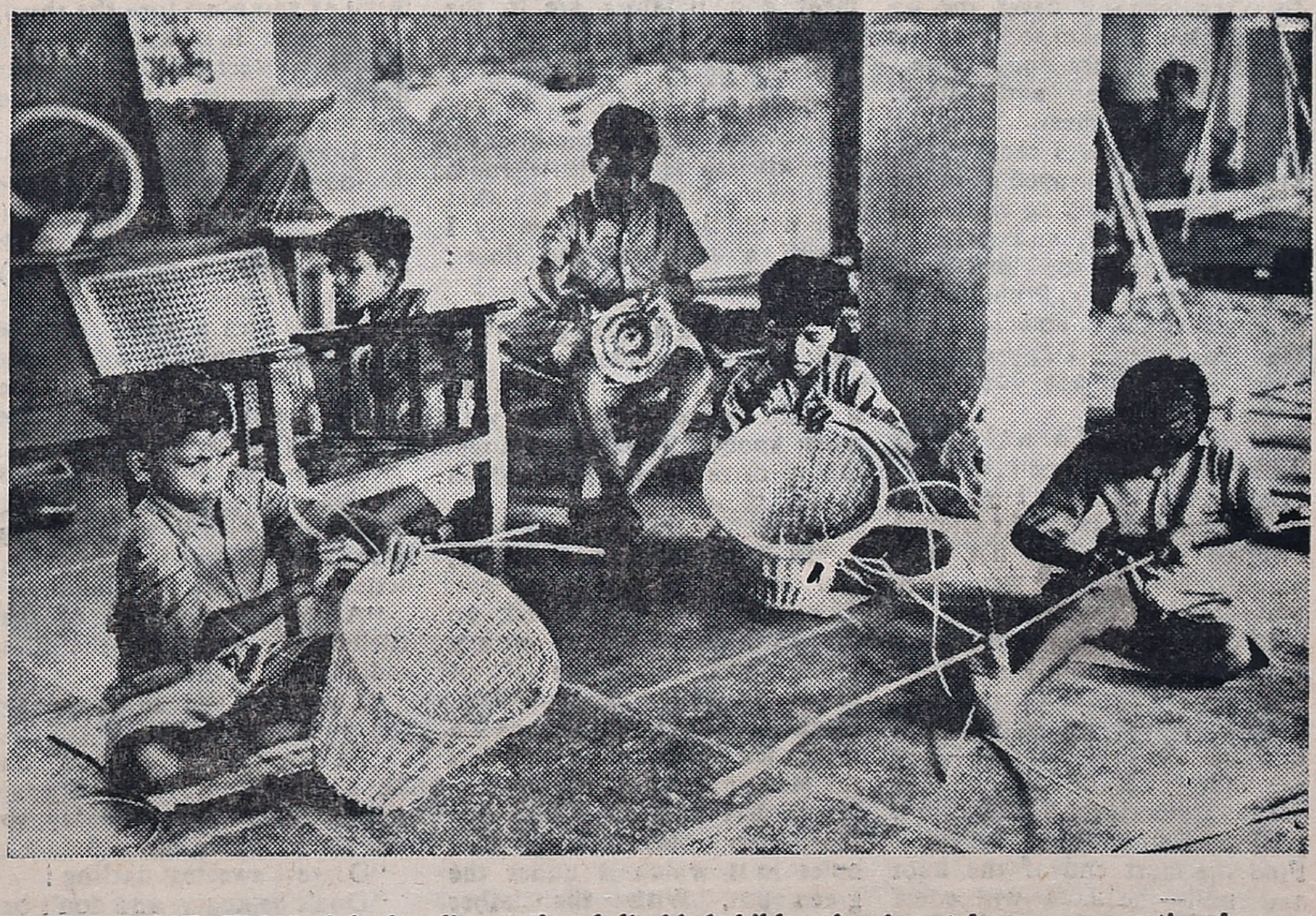
## THE PROOF

I may state most emphatically that today we have on hand an agricultural technology to increase crop production atleast by three folds. The proof for this is found in the hands of progressive farmers and the Krishi Pandits who harvest record yields of foodgrains from a unit area of farm land, which records are not in any way lower than those of the world records. It is a recognised fact that there exists a wide gap between the available modern technology and the one being practised by the average farmer. This gap should be narrowed down. It should also be recognised that at the theoretical level much higher productivity per unit area of land is possible. Attempts should be made to minimise the gap between the theoretical possibility and actual field productivity. Concerned research efforts are required for the purpose. In India, as in several other advanced countries, experiments are under way to achieve this. When once the technology for increasing the productivity is developed by the scientists, then the question of economics of production and the cost of various inputs vis-a-vis the market demand and consumer price will come to play which would ultimately decide the levels of applications of modern technology in agriculture. In this context, I would like to state once again that in India we have adequate technology for increasing the productivity in agriculture and also there are a sufficient number of competent scientists who could continue to develop the required modern technology to meet the growing demands of the nation in the coming years.

While developing the relevant technology for increasing agricultural productivity, the scientists should bear in mind the needs of small farmers of the country. To-day three-fourths of our farmers are tilling small patches of soil, which are of poor fertility level and whose productivity is dependent on the vagaries of monsoons. If we compare the remaining one-fourth of the farmers owning rainfed areas there exists a wide gap in their economy and average income perhaps in the ratio of about 1:10. Even

(Contd. on page 7)

## REHABILITATION OF THE HANDICAPPED



REHABILITATION of the handicapped and disabled children has been taken up on a national scale under various schemes. In the last two years about 11,500 scholarships were granted to handicapped children to have general as well as vocational education. Picture shows some of the handicapped children being trained in basket making and cane chair knitting.

# FUN AND LAUGHTER

### THE PERFECT ARTIST!

William Frith, the English painter, was chatting backstage in a theatre with a scene-shifter who said he himself had been a player in the provinces. In fact, he had played the part of "Amlet".

"Very interesting," said Mr. Frith. "Tell me—what is your conception of Hamlet's relation to Ophelia? Did he, so to speak, love her not wisely but too well?"

"I don't know, sir; if 'Amlet did," was the unblushing answer, "but I did".

* * *

### LIFE OR FIRE?

Inquirer: "I have two wooden legs. Is it possible for me to insure myself.'

Agent: "What kind of insurance, life or fire?"

### IMPATIENT LOVER

Montgomery came home one night and his wife Chuchu met him at the door and kissed him. He said. "What's going on? The house is all lit up—music playing, people here, what's happening?"

"It's a surprise," replied Chuchu, "it's your birthday we're celebrating".

"My birthday?" asked Montgomery. "This is December and my birthday is not until next October".

"So, why wait till the last minute!"

x x x

### DEATH KNELL

Waiter: "Did you ring, sir?"

Irate Customer: 'No, I did not ring. I was tolling the bell for you. I thought you were dead."

### MAKES HOLES!

Sailor: 'Did you hear about the chief? He drank some sulphuric acid by mistake last night."

Recruit: "Hurt him?"

Sailor: "Now only thing that bothers him is he makes holes in his handkerchief every time he blows his nose."

* * *

### THE QUESTION

He called on her twice a week for six months but had not proposed. "Ethel," he said as they were taking a moonlight stroll one night, "I am going to ask you an important question".

"Oh George," she exclaimed. "This is so sudden; why I—"

"What I want to ask is this," he interrupted. "What date have you and your mother decided on for our wedding?'

### PASSION FASHION!

A fellow came to work about ten O'clock, and when the office staff looked at him, they all started to laugh. He asked. "What are you laughing about?"

"There's a big black smudge on your face!"

"Oh," he said, "I can explain that. My wife was going on vacation and I took her to the depot and I kissed her goodbye.'

"How about the smudge?" they asked.

"As soon as the train left, I ran up to kiss the engine!"

x x x

### BUT-LLO BOUT

The argument started over who's on first and what's on second. Finally Costello had enough, "Listen, Abbott. There's only one reason I don't punch you in the nose".

"What's that?" Abbott challenged.

"Because I'm bigger than you are".

"It so happens that I'm bigger than you!"

"Well, that's even a better eason!"

x x x

### THE WAY OUT!

Elemer Smudgejunk is not what you would call stingy—he's just very careful with his money. Anyway, his daughter is always borrowing money from him. After her boy friend had proposed to her, he went to her house to ask her father for her hand. He said, "I'd like your daughter's hand".

"Is that so?" answered the girl's father. 'That's fine. Take the one that she always has in my pocket".

* * *

### COLD COMFORT

After the specialist who had been called into consultation had examined the patient, they retired to another room to discuss diagnosis. The patient was curious and sent his small son to listen at the door.

"Could you hear what they said?" he asked as the boy returned.

"I listened awfully hard, but I couldn't get the big words," replied the boy. "But I did hear one of them say, 'Oh, well, we'll find out at the postmortem.'"

* * *

### WRONG PARTY

A woman particularly outraged by a film sat down and penned a letter to Warner Brothers telling them in no uncertain terms that pictures of this calibre were, an insult to the intelligence of a thinking people. She asked why they persisted in producing such utter trash when so many splendid classics and good stories were on library shelves. In a few days she received a wire from Warner Brothers. "We agree with you entirely. Tell this to Paramount. They made it".

*HUMOUR:*

# It's Wonderful To Be Married

By VLADIMIR KLIMOVICH

I came home from work, climbed to the fifth floor, went up to my door and brightened up. It's wonderful to be married!

I will ring the door bell. My wife will open the door. She will hug and kiss me, bring my slippers, give my supper. After we eat I will lie down on the sofa to relax, she will cover me up with a plaid blanket and then she will read the paper aloud to me.

I smiled in anticipation. Puffed out my chest. Rang the bell......Nothing. I rang again. Still nothing. I stopped smiling: a man has been toiling all day, is tired and hungry, and here he has to open the door himself.

I got out my key, found where it should fit, and somehow got the door open. I'd practically forgotten how it was done—five years of marriage.

I entered the flat which was dark and did not smell of anything tasty cooking. I was not quite feeling myself. I switched on the light. The flat was empty. No wife. I went here and there and found a note.

"Petechka! Do not walk about the house in your shoes. By the door there is a little stool. Sit on it, take off your shoes, and put on your slippers—they are underneath the stool.

"Before taking off your shoes, you must first untie the laces. Find the short end of the knot and pull—the lace will come undone. Loosen it and the shoe will easily come off. Do the same with the second.

'Dearest! Remember, before the wedding you promised that my every wish would be your desire? So please, eat dinner by yourself tonight, without me.

"I've prepared everything, the meal is on the stove. All you have to do is warm it up. The soup is in the little pot—it looks like your new hat—green. The meat and potatoes are in the frying pan, the tea is in the tea kettle.

"Darling! Don't be upset, but please eat in the kitchen. The kitchen is that little room next to the bathroom. So that you could find it more easily I pasted a sign on the door: 'Kitchen'.

"When you find it, go inside and face the window. To the right, in the corner, you will see a little white cupboard with white knobs. That is the stove. On it there is a paper which says: 'Stove'.

"In order to warm the food, you must first light the gas. This is how it's done. Pick up the little wooden box with a picture on it – is on the left of the stove. It is a matchbox. Open it, take out a match - a little stick - and strike it against the side of the box. When the match has lit, bring it close to that little black thing with holes in it which is under the green pot, With the other hand, turn the first white knob nearest the window. The gas will flare up with a blue flame.

"But darling, for God's sake, be careful, don't burn yourself! If everything goes well, light the gas under the frying pan and the kettle. For this, turn the second and third white knobs.

"Petya! Don't mix up the knobs. If the gas isn't lit it can poison you!

"Look at your watch: in five minutes you must turn the third, second and first knobs in the reverse direction. The blue flame will go 'poof' and disappear.

"Take a plate from the table - the one that is closest to the stove. If you break it, take the one that is a little farther back (just in case, I set out four) and pour some soup from the pot into it with a ladle. A ladle is a big spoon with a long handle. It is lying next to the matches and I have pasted the sign 'ladle' on it.

"When you are pouring out the tea, do not drop the lid. Mind you, I tied it with a string to the handle, but just in case, better hold it with your hand.

"After dinner, go out of the kitchen, lie down on the sofa and wait for me.

'I will read the newspaper to you when I get home.

'I am at the hairdressers' on the corner, number 14. I want to look pretty for the holiday, so that you will love me as before.

"Dearest sweetest darling!

"Don't be angry and don't be lonely!

"Hugs and kisses, your Masha".

# AROUND THE WORLD

## White Ring's Aid To Crime Victims

Prisoners' rights and rehabilitation of ex-convicts are all well and good, but what about the innocent victims of crime? More often than not they are left to their own devices. In Germany a charitable organisation has been set up in Frankfurt/Main to lend an unbureaucratic hand.

Its sponsors include leading defence counsel Josef Augstein, the brother of Rudolf Augstein, the publisher of *Der Spiegel*, the Hamburg news magazine, Horst Herold, the head of the Federal CID in Wiesbaden, penologist Professor Schneider, Frankfurt public prosecutor Adelheid Werner and TV crime reporter Eduard Zimmermann.

Since the beginning of this year crime victims have been entitled to indemnification, and 3,100 applications have already been submitted, but the White Ring, as the Frankfurt organisation has chosen to call itself, feels the personal touch is often what is missing. Take, for instance, an eighteen-year-old Berlin girl who is paralysed from the waist down after having been knifed by a thug. The Frankfurt charity has been able to arrange a new apartment and telephone for the unfortunate girl, new lothes and, above all, training for a new job.

The White Ring, which also aims to assist in crime prevention, is modelled on similar organisations in the United States. It plans to set up advice bureaux all over the country to which crime victims can turn for assistance. Volunteers will man them and provide advice and assistance with the emphasis on cutting through red tape.

The organisation has no party-political affiliations and hopes, moreover, to combat prejudice against ex-convicts. But its founder-members are convinced that rehabilitation of offenders can only be improved and recidivism reduced provided that a helping hand is extended to both criminals and their innocent victims.

—

## Hockey Team Lands In Jail

A 14-member hockey team from Rampur which had been invited to play a friendly match with the Aligarh Muslim University has landed in jail for travelling without tickets.

The match was in connection with the centenary celebrations of the Aligarh University.

The AMU had agreed to meet the entire expenses of the team, including the train fare, both ways.

—*Indian Express*

## He Failed

Personal papers of the late U. S. millionaire Howard Hughes recently brought to light appear to confirm what *Newsweek* discribes as the "millionair's private and political obsession with the Kennedy family." That Hughes, however, had a healthy respect for the Kennedy political machine is seen from the fact that, on learning of the assassination of Robert Kennedy, he offered the late Senator's entire staff jobs on the committee campaigning for his own olacemen. However, his hopes of "grabbing a ready made political apparatus" fell through, as only one man accepted the offer.

—

## Population Statistics

Because of falling birth rates and mounting emigration the population of the United Kingdom is dwindling. According to Department of Health statistics announced in the Commons, before this year is out Britain's population will be under 56 million for the first time in the past five years. True, British demographers hope the population will start growing again after 1980.

—

## Making It Simple

Speech writers who prepare drafts for U. S. President Carter have been advised to keep them basic enough to be understood by ninth-grade school students. Even then, says the *U. S. News and World Report*, the President edits the speeches to make them simpler.

### Prayer Answered

JASON Herd, 5, was heart broken when his goldfish died, so he sent a note to God asking for him back.

"Dear God, My goldfish died and my mother told me he had gone to heaven so you could make him better. Could I have him back please," he wrote.

He put on the envelope: "Postman, could you please deliver this to God."

Two days later, Jason's prayers were answered when the postman brought him a bright new fish tank with a goldfish just like the one that died.

Post-office sorting workers in the northern England town of Sheffield were so touched by Jason's letter that they decided to give God a telling hand and bought Jason a new fish and a bowel.

*CHILDREN'S CORNER*

## How Mr. Cat Fooled Mr. Fox

Winter was drawing near and Mr. Cat was sad for he had no boots. He decided to go to town to buy some for himself and Mrs Cat. He had already walked more than half way there when he met Mr. Fox. And Mr. Fox said to him:

"Where are you going, Mr. Cat?"

Mr. Cat said:

"I'm going to town to buy boots for Mrs. Cat and myself. Winter's getting near, and it is cold going around bare foot".

Mr. Fox said;

"I know a good cobbler, Mr. Wolfie. You can go to him for your boots."

Mr. Fox led the way and Mr. Cat followed. Soon they came to the foxs' burrow. Because Mr. Cat was a villager and never went to the forest, he didn't know that foxes live in holes. No sooner had they got inside than Mr. Fox said to Mr. Cat.

"Give me your money or I'll kill you!"

"Oh, have mercy on me!" Mr. Cat said. "I'll buy boots for you, for Mrs. Fox and for your children if you let me go".

This was agreed, and they set off together to buy the boots.

At last they reached the town. Mr. Fox walked very wearily, telling Mr. Cat that he was scared to go into the town. Mr. Cat insisted that he go to town with him. Soon they came to a narrow lane. Mr. Cat left Mr. Fox waiting by a garden gate while he went off to see if there were any ready made boots for sale. And people saw Mr. Fox standing there. They crept up to him from all sides, caught him, tore of his brush and gave him a sound beating.

Mr. Fox wriggled away and ran back home without waiting for the boots.

Mr. Cat returned but all he could see was a crowd of people at the spot where he had left Mr. Fox.

Mr. Cat went to the shop, bought boots for himself and Mr. Cat and asked Mr. Dog to see him home.

Mr. Fox, together with Mrs. Fox and their two elder sons, lay in wait for Mr. Cat to kill him because Mr. Fox and lost his brush. Mr. Cat saw him and said to Mr. Dog:

"There he is already waiting for me!

Mr. Dog said:

"Don't be afraid. Just wait till I say hello to him".

As they drew nearer Mr. Dog sprang at Mr. Fox and killed him. The elder son tried th help his father but Mr. Dog attacked him, too. The others were so scared that they ran away.

Mr. Dog wanted to go home, but Mr. Cat asked Mr. Dog to visit him for his good deed.

After that Mr. Cat lived a free and easy life. If the foxes happened to meet Mr. Dog in the forest they ran off.

## Pigeon from Japan Lands in India

A Japanese carrier pigeon apparently took a wrong turn in a race and ended up in South India recently. This was revealed in a letter received by the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi from a University Professor in Bijapur, Karnataka. It said that on April 30 a bird with Japanese identification bands landed in the city. The pure white pigeon, the letter said, had a bronze band with a registration number on one leg and a plastic band with a Japanese kana (writing) attached to the other leg.

An investigation by the Japan Pigeon Race Association found that the bird was registered with the Sadowatari Bird Shop in Kurume, Fukuoka Prefecture. An Association official said birds occasionally head in the wrong direction during a race and that several have reached the West coast of the United States. Most perch on the masts of ships for a free ride across the Pacific, he said.

—*Japan Review.*

## Hideout for Estranged Wives

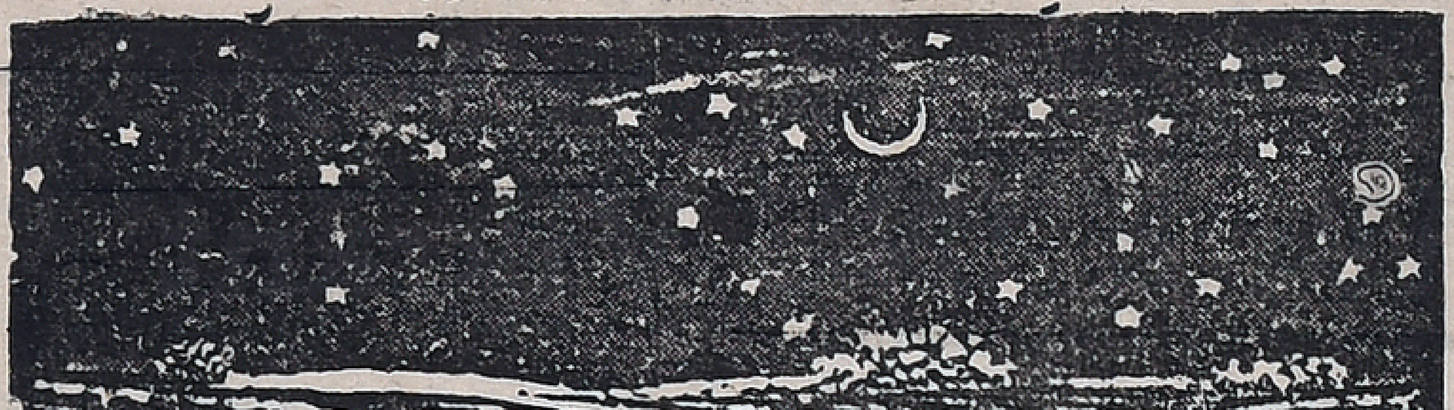
Japan's first emergency shelter for estranged wives with children was opened in Tokyo on April 12. The centre, first of its kind, was established in Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo, by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government with an aim of setting up emergency rescue hideouts for divorcees.

At present, married women are not admitted to public homes for mothers before their marriage is formally dissolved. Such women can lodge at other public rehabilitation facilities, but their children are not admitted.

In addition, under the present legal system, mothers are not entitled to public livelihood assistance before their marriage is officially ended.

The metropolitan Government measure is one of the commitments Tokyo Gov. Ryokichi Minobe, a supporter of women's rights, made to a group of women during International Women's Year in 1975.

—*Japan Review.*



# PLAN WITH THE PLANETS

For The Week 24th July To 30rd July 1977

## GLOSSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| Arudra | —திருவாதிரை |
| Pushya | —பூசம் |
| Ashlesha | —ஆயில்யம் |
| Purva Phalguni | —பூரம் |
| Uttara Phalguni | —உத்திரம் |
| Anuradha | —அனுஷம் |
| Jyeshtha | —கேட்டை |
| Purva Ashada | —பூராடம் |
| Uttara Ashada | —உத்திராடம் |
| Shravana | —திருவோணம் |
| Dhanistha | —அவிட்டம் |
| Satha Bhishag | —சதயம் |
| Purva Bhadra-pada | —பூரட்டாதி |
| Uttara Bhadra-pada | —உத்திரட்டாதி |

### MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika $^1/_4$

FAVOURABLE period. You should make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. You will get an opportunity to meet an influential person this week. You will be able to finalise a partnership arrangement thro' him, which will be very favourable to you. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Health will be well maintained. You are passing through one of the best periods and you should try to solve some of the long pending problems. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

★

### VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika $^3/_4$ Rohini
Mrigashirsha $^1/_2$

YOU should wait for some more time to implement your plans. You should avoid legal complications. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. You should be cautious in dealing with superiors. Family matters require attention. You can expect improvement in business conditions shortly. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days: 24th & 25th.

★

### MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha $^1/_2$ Arudra
Punarvasu $^3/_4$

MIXED results are indicated. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Property matters could be finalised. Business prospects will improve. Promotional possibilities are bright. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Matters relating to children require attention. Change of place is indicated for some. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

### KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu $^1/_4$ Pushya
Ashlesha

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid legal complications. In domestic sphere, you may have to take up additional responsibility. Financial position will not be satisfactory, but will improve by the end of this week. Avoid speculative investments for some more time. Also avoid long distance travel. Business will improve. Partnership matters require attention. Favourable days: 26th & 27th.

★

### SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni $^1/_4$

FAVOURABLE period. You will be able to solve some of your long pending problems. You should make use of this opportunity to start a new venture. Partnership arrangements could be finalised favourably. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Promotional possibilities are bright. Change of place is indicated for some. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

★

### KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni $^3/_4$ Hastha
Chitra $^1/_2$

MIXED results are indicated. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Avoid friction with associates. Also avoid impulsive actions. Health requires attention. You should be cautious while travelling. Avoid long distance travel this week. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid legal complications. Family responsibilities will increase, but you can expect cooperation from your family members. You should continue your efforts to improve your business. Favourable days: 29th & 30th.

### THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra $^1/_2$ Swathi
Visakha $^3/_4$

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. Financial position will show signs of improvement. But you should avoid speculative investments for some more time. You should try to expand your business activity and also try to start new ventures. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. Matters relating to children require attention. You can expect cooperation from your family members in solving the problem. Avoid friction with elders. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

★

### VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha $^1/_4$ Anuradha
Jyeshtha

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Avoid legal complications. And also avoid friction with associates. Health requires attention. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. You should be cautious in dealing with foreigners. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. You should continue your efforts to improve your business. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

★

### DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha $^1/_4$

FAVOURABLE period will continue for some time. You should make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Family matters should be handled properly to avoid misunderstanding. Property matters require extra attention. You should consult legal experts before finalising property transactions. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

### MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha $^3/_4$
Shravana—Dhanistha $^1/_2$

FAVOURABLE period. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. You will be able to solve some of the long standing problems. Promotional possibilities are bright. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. Matters relating to children could be finalised. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 24th & 25th.

★

### KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta $^1/_2$ Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada $^3/_4$

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Property matters require attention. You can not expect quick results for the efforts you are making now. But you will be able to reap the benefits after some time. Matters relating to children could be finalised. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

★

### MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada $^1/_4$
Uttara Badrapada Revati

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Business will improve. You should also try to start new ventures. Health will be well maintained. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid legal complications later. Matters relating to children could be finalised. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid friction. Favourable days: 26th & 27th.

From page 2

# A Day With INS Vikrant

cally operated lifts bring up the aircraft from the hangar to the flight deck.

### THE AIR SQUADRONS

The carrier has three naval air squadrons, namely 1) Sea Hawk jet aircraft; 2) Alize Turbo-prop aircraft; and 3) the helicopters of two kinds - Sea King and Aloutte.

Taking these one by one, the Sea Hawk jet aircraft, which are capable of high speeds, perform the following roles :—

a) Anti-shipping strikes;
b) Aerial interception of enemy aircraft;
c) Aerial support for army operations; and
d) Photographic reconnaissance.

The French-built Breguet Alize turbo-prop aircraft have sophisticated electronic equipment which includes radar, anti-submarine detection and strike equipment, long-range communication and homing equipment. Their functions include :

a) Long—range reconnaissance and strike;
b) anti-submarine warfare; and
c) homing of fighter aircraft.

Of the two kinds of helicopters, the ASW (Anti-submarine warfare) type have the capability of detecting and destroying the submarine with their uptodate electronic and weaponry systems.

The other type, which are the French-buit Alouette helicopters have, as their main role the task of sea-air rescue work and are always to be seen on 'hover duty' whenever flying operations are in progress.

### "DECADE OF THE SEAS"

The day began with the ship ceremonially leaving the harbour with the naval band's display on the flight deck of the aircraft carriers.

Briefing the newsmen, before the exercises, Rear-Admiral M. K. Roy, Flying Officer—commending, Eastern Fleet, said :

> "The Indian ocean is very different from the other two oceans–the Pacific and the Atlantic.........
>
> We are the only country with this tremendous punch at sea. I like to feel that this carrier is a deterrent to stop a war before what we want to do in other fields in this direction.........
>
> We are really involved in keeping ourselves self-reliant and self-sufficient.........
>
> .........That is all a part of the new decade–this is the decade of the seas".

In his talk with this correspondent, he outlined the purpose of the exercises :-

*Question*: What is the main purpose of these exercises ?

*Answer*: The more we exercise in peace, the more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war. That is why we have to be precise. We have to keep everything sharpened and our main occupation in peace is exercise.

*Question*: Do you thing our modernisation process is adequate to our needs ?

*Answer*: Everything is relative here, relative to economic and other things. Our industry is the most advanced in the third world. But in order to keep all things going, what we require today, i.e. in the beginning of the decade of the seas, is that young people should come forward and serve the country, with the most sophisticated equipment at sea, in the Navy, in other ocean disciplines in the Indian ocean, which is really a part of this great country, which we have to exploit and keep going.

And unless we have the best people coming forward, especially the youth of the country, the fact is that we cannot maintain the very high standard that we have.

### HIGHLIGHT

The highlight of the day's demonstration was provided by the flying exercises (or 'Flyex' as they are called by the Navy men). Though they lasted only about 40 minutes, a lot of careful and strenuous work by specialists had gone into the preparation - by way of checking and servicing every part' arming the aircraft and correctly positioning them for launching and recovery.

After the checks are completed and the engines started, the carrier turns into the winds to make sure that the maximum relative wind was available on deck. The first to be airborne are the helicopters. The blue Alouette, affectionately known as "Jumbo" flies alongside the ship ready to rescue aircrew from the sea in the unfortunate event of any such contingency. This is followed by the sea King helicopter, large twinengined anti-submarine machines, equipped with all the radar and weaponry.

The deck is now clear for the fixed wing aircraft to be marshalled forward for launching. The steam catapult is then tensioned and the aircraft is brought to full power, with an ear-splitting sound. First off the catapult are the Seahawk Jet fighters, followed by the Alize Anti-submarine turbo-prop aircraft. It is an exciting sight to watch the sharpnosed aircraft ejected, flying off the catapult like marbles from the school boy's sling.

### MOST EXACTING PHASE

The Sea Kings fly from the stern one on each side and deep two "depth charges" (or explosive) meant for action against the submarines. The Alizes them swoop in for a firing demonstration on splash target towed astern of the ship - This is followed by a demonstration of 'duck' by the Sea Kings, coming low over the surface and lowering a sonar device. It is a marvel how the helicopter remains absolutely motionless during the exercise. (This is achieved by a sophisticated, computerised system, we are told)

The recovery of the aircraft is the final, and probably the most exacting phase of the flying exercise (Even in the case of the ordinary aircraft, on the field ashore, landing is supposed to be more difficult than the take-off). The final approach is tricky, requiring cool judgement, quick reflexes and absolute faith in the recovery system. It is effected with the assistance of a mirror sight and the aircraft are 'arrested' after their landing hooks engage in the steel wire stretched across the deck, which operate on hydraulic retardation mechanism. The jets land first, followed by the Alizes and the 'Choppers' come in last.

### VITAL EXERCISE

Replenishment at sea (or RAS) is a vital exercise by means of which virtually every movable item on board ship, from persons to parcels, and food to fuel, can be transferred while the ships are under way at sea. This is effected with the help of a heavy manila rope passed across the two ship, and is made possible by a precise calculation of speed and direction.

In the Rocket-Firing exercise, INS KAMORTA approaches INS VIKRANT at high speed and fires a salve of rockets at an

(Contd. on page 8)

From page 3

# Modernisation And Productivity...

among the farmers owning irrigated land there exists a wide gap in their income levels, though on the basis of per hectare productivity of the irrigated land the gap may not be that wide; as a matter of fact, in some cases the income per hectare might be more in medium holdings when compared to large sized holdings. We have to evolve suitable relevant technologies to benefit farmers of all categories in the country.

### MAN POWER UTILISATION

In modernizing our agriculture we should aim at increasing the productivity of every bit of land, whether it is rainfed or irrigated, small or big holdings, grown to food or commercial crops, annual or perennials. Merely increasing crop production may not be the answer to pull out our rural economy from the ruts. We have to increase the income of every one of the farmer, every member of the farming community, whether he is a owner cultivator or a farm labour. Our efforts should be to fully utilise the manpower considering it as a major asset and converting it into an essential input in rural development.

The two major approaches to fully utilise the labour force would be (a) to provide more work on the farm, which means intensive cultivation with irrigation facilities and diversification of farming practices with multiple cropping and mixed farming, and (b) to provide alternative occupation through small scale industries, which in a village would mean mostly agro-based cottage industries. Both approaches require adequate financial inputs and technical skill. Taking the village as a unit, one has to work out a detailed plan and implement it with foresight and zeal. In this process not only the village folks have to be deeply involved but also the local leadership should be fully exploited.

Unfortunately, today, in our villages, the local leadership is not really available and even if available, is divided with conflicting concepts, ideologies, and interests, not to mention about the inadequacy and immaturity of the leadership.

### MIGRATION

The more intelligent younger people migrate to the nearby towns and cities leaving the rural complex problems to be solved by less intelligent people. The educated youth from the urban areas are reluctant to go to villages to help the rural people to solve their problems. Thus it should be recognised that merely planning and planting a development project in a village would not bring the desired results. Adequate training of the local leadership with a human and sociological approach is more important for the success of any development programme. As a matter of fact our planners and extension workers themselves need orientation and training on sociological aspects of the rural masses.

In conclusion I may state that in India we have the world's third largest scientific manpower and we have adequate modern agricultural technology already developed through the efforts of the highly competent scientists. If we can more effectively transfer the available technology to the rural areas, overcoming the present economic, social, administrative and political obstacles we should be able to double our agricultural productivity which will generate enough resources for the country to move very fast towards a prosperous society. We will not only be self-sufficient in food production but also be able to produce large quantities of exportable agricultural commodities placing India at the top in the list of agricultural countries of the world. Let all of us strive towards such a goal.

(*Coutesy : AIR, Madras.*)

From page 1

# Fumbling And Floundering

I was a member of the ruling party."

But the more serious aspect of it is in the daily number of short-notice questions and calling-attention motions. The former under the rules will be answered only when the Minister accepts and agrees to answer. The advantage of a short-notice question is that it is bound to come up for oral answers and supplementaries.

There was the rumpus over the complaints of Congress Party Members that Ministers were only accepting short-notice questions of the ruling party members, and that too with a political motivation—a rumpus that was quietened only with the intervention of Morarj Desai and his statesmanlike view that Ministres should accept as many of these as possible and that he would sit with the leader of the Opposition, Y B. Chavan, to sort out the problem. But even more than this was the problem faced by Treasury benches, and particularly the Finance Minister, over questions. Ministers could of course oblige their partymen by accepting the questions, but obviously cannot oblige them by giving the replies that the Mem bers want.

All the short-notice questions, or most of them, relate to the misdeeds, alleged or otherwise, of the past regime, including the one (on a calling attention motion) arising out of the publication in the *Statesman* of the photostat copy of an alleged bank order purporting to show foreign bank accounts of Sanjay Gandhi and Maneka Gandhi a charge that Sanjay Gandhi has now blankly repudiated. The way the "evidence" came into the hands of the newspapers, the discrepancies and "curious" features apparent on the face of it, were such that Finance Minister Patel could not have given any other reply than the one he did—any other would have made the Government look foolish, and created credibility gaps for the future, if the photostat turned out to be a clever 'plant', part of the game of misinformation. Even if it ultimately led to something, a clever defendant could no doubt play havoc with differing versions of Government. But Janata members and their allies jumped on poor Patel.

The same thing happened on a short-notice question a day or two later about RBI's role during the Emergency in helping some of the favoured Big Business houses. Patel's cautious reply that the RBI was now looking into the matter was jumped upon by several members, Jyotirmoy Bosu going so far as to cast aspersions on the present (acting ?) Governor, on the ground he was the former Secretary of the Banking Department. Present Governor Narasimham, during most of the relevant period, had been in the Economic Affairs Department of the Finance Ministry, and had been shifted to the Banking Department at the tail-end of the Emergency, when the Department by then had ceased even to be a postoffice between 1, Safdarjung Road and Puri at the RBI.

One aspect of all this however was that the public are getting bored, and are going to be bored even more with the innumerable Commissions of Inquiry. This is no reflection on the Commissioners. The point to note is that the Roman circuses may have had their uses in the good old days but do not entertain now.

The Mathur Commission (into Maruti affairs) commenced work with an open sitting at which the counsel for Sanjay Gandhi and Maruti Directors brought out that in India in twenty-five years there have been over one thousand commissions while in UK there had been seventeen in fifty-six years. Ex-Justice Mathur, who constituted the Commission, suggested that this was because of the public confidence in the Judiciary (and the Executive taking advantage of it ?).

Ex-Chief Justice Shah made more or less the same point, at a press conference on Monday, when he outlined his plan of work, and suggested he would be able to go into the reasons for Emergency and promised a judicial and speedy work. However, his Secretariat was cautious and even negative on whether the Commission would investigate, for example, the alleged Russian role or the US-World Bank-Fund inputs into the economic policies that allegedly brought about the Emergency.

But the real problem has been there has hardly been any individual in our public life who has been punished, and that swiftly, after exposure of his misdeeds through a Commission of Inquiry. Even such grave economic offences as those unearthed by the Vivian Bose Commission that went into Dalmia-Jain affairs, has just passed (after nearly twenty years) the stage of conviction in sessions court, and is yet to go through the two or three appeals stages. No politician or Minister has ever suffered at all.

The Indian public, wiser in the ways of politics, have acted, at the time of the poll and, by and large, punished the candidates guilty of grave misuse of power and authority. Even the Janata Government has proved that in the matter of ignoring Commissions, it is not far behind the Congress.

The Emergency and its misdeeds are however so fundamentally heinous that all our Irish is up at the prospect that those guilty may face no more than these Commissions.

Soon after the Janata Government was sworn in, Balasubramanian in *Eastern Economist* asked why there should be Commissions and why Indira Gandhi and her advisers should not be prosecuted straightaway. He received many commendatory letters, including some from jurists, but everyone seems to be coming up against the hard fact of Law.

In Britain, a Prime Minister and senior Ministers and officials, guilty of half-as-much as what Indira Gandhi is accused of—I am prepared to concede that my views based on surmises are not sufficient and hard evidence may be needed to prove it—would be guilty of high treason, even though the precedent for this has to be searched by going back two to three hundred years.

In India, Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code relating to sedition and which our founding fathers, including Jawaharlal Nehru, promised to repeal but did not, does not seem to cover the present case. There is of course 120-B, the conspiracy section of the Indian Penal Code that is often used to rope in remote individuals, abetting or instigating some crime. But this too is unsatisfactory.

Let us hope that whatever else happens or not, the Shah or some other Commission will apply its mind first to the future, and suggest some carefully-worded law to bring to book the offenders. Such a law should apply not merely to ministers and officials, but businessmen, industrialists, lawyers, journalists and the like. These will go a longer way than all the Lok Pals and Lok Ayukts and Commissions of Inquiry.

—C. RAGHAVAN IN MAINSTREAM.

From page 7

imaginary submarine in the vicinity of the ships.

The two ships get into a close formation for a demonstration of a few surface manoeuvers.

In the 'vertical replenishment' (or Verterp for short), mail, stores or persons are transferred to and from a ship by a helicopter. Casualty evacuation is also done in the same manner, When a doctor is not available on board the ship.

Questions are often raised by those interested in defence strategy, if heavy and expensive ships like aircraft-carriers have not already had their day, especially in view of the great advance made by defence technology elsewhere. Taking all the pros and cons into consideration, experts feel that ship borne fixed wing aviation still has a key role to play where reaction time is minimum and shore-based aircraft do not fill the bill. Even the latest thinking in the U. S. and U. K. seems to reinforce this stand.

The future of INS VIKRANT is, therefore, as stable as that of the Indian Navy. It has atleast a decade more to run the full course of its life span. It will be a source of strength to us into the late 'Eighties. Even its presence can strike terror into the hearts of those who might feel like meddling with the Indian shores.

## Marriage Usual, Rest Unusual

It was a typical scene in an Indian marriage. The bride was sobbing inconsolably, hugging a middle-aged couple presumably her parents.

But what made the marriage at Junagadh different were two things—the couple were not the bride's parents and second and important, the girl, Kamal, was a Hindu and the couple Muslim.

Some 15 years ago, Mr. Mohsin Koreishi, husband of Mrs. Mahmedi Begum, sister of Dr. Kazi, was transferred to Dhulia in Mahrashtra as the Divisional Sales Manager of the Usha Fan Company. A local Marathi woman Laxmibai, was employed by them for household work.

As the couple was young and there were no elders in the family, Laxmibai gradually came to occupy the position of an elder in the family and started living with them. When the Koreishis were transferred to Bombay, they took Laxmibai along. Kamal the young daughter of Laxmibai's sister, also came to stay with her aunt.

A few years ago, when Dr. Rashidmiyan Kazi of Junagadh went to Bombay to meet his sister, Mrs. Koreishi, he saw Kamal. He brought Kamal with him to Junagadh and, since, then, Kamal had become a member of the Kazi family and Dr. Rashidmiyan and Dr. (Mrs.) Saberaben Kazi considered her as their own daughter.

When Kamal came of age, the Kazis started worrying about her future. Dr. Kazi told his Hindu friends to find a suitable boy for Kamal. They found Keshav Jirode of Kamal's caste. Keshav was serving in the Railway Workshop in Junagadh.

A meeting of Kamal and Keshav was arranged. They liked each other and were engaged with the consent of elders of both sides. The marriage took place last month in one of the best wadis in Junagadh in the presence of a distinguished gathering and a Hindu priest performed the ceremonies.

The Kazis did all the duties of real parents as Kamal had no parents but only the widowed Laxmibai.

—*DECCAN HERALD*

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